## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GEORGE 02163 071830Z ACTION FBOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 A-01 SY-05 /021 W

-----001138 071834Z /46

PR 071741Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5268 AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

**UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 2163** 

DEPT FOR ARA/MGT, A/FBO/ARA, AND A/SY; PANAMA FOR RTC, CARACAS FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ABLD, ASEC

SUBJECT: FIRE IN CHANCERY-REQUEST FOR SURVEY OF ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

REF: GEORGETOWN 2115 (NOTAL)

- 1. FOR PANAMA: REFTEL REPORTED FIRE IN INCINERATOR ROOM OF CHANCERY AT 2345Z, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3.
- 2. DAMAGE WAS CONFINED TO WIRING AND FUSES. LOCAL ELECTRICIAN FAMILIAR WITH SYSTEM SURMISED SHORT WAS CAUSED WHEN TELEPHONE POLE OUTSIDE EMBASSY PROPERTY COLLAPSED (FROM OLD AGE); TELEPHONE CABLE STRUCK AND PULLED OR JOSTLED 2" CONDUIT ROUTED ACROSS LOWER CHANCERY ROOF. WORN WIRES WITHIN CONDUIT SHORTED AND SENT CURRENT SURGE THROUGH TO SMALL WIRES BEYOND THIRD FLOOR AUXILIARY POWER PANEL, THEN TO GROUND. ALL BURNT WIRES, EXCEPT GROUND RUNNING TO WATER PIPE NEAR THIRD FLOOR PANEL, WERE IN CONDUITS OR STEEL BOXES.
- 3. FIFTY YEAR-OLD WOODEN CHANCERY AND SURROUNDING (WITHIN THIRTY FEET) WOODEN TENEMENT APARTMENTS, ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN EFFECT TINDER BOXES. WE DOUBT THAT CHANCERY COULD BE SAFELY EVACUATED DURING A FIRE OF MORE SERIOUS PROPORTIONS THAN THOSE DESCRIBED ABOVE. POST THEREFORE REQUESTS VISIT ON PRIORITY BASIS OF FBO OR RTC ENGINEER TO SURVEY ENTIRE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY ANY EXISTING OR POTENTIAL FAULTS AND MAKE COMPLETE ASSESSMENT OF EMBASSY VULNERABILITY FROM WITHIN AND

WITHOUT.
PLEASE ADVISE.
BLACKEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am

**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE02163
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Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

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Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 1368706 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FIRE IN CHANCERY-REQUEST FOR SURVEY OF ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

TAGS: ABLD, ASEC
To: STATE PANAMA

Type: TE

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Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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